

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
STT Subbase Oil Spill - E18204 - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #4
Progress
STT Subbase Oil Spill - E18204
Z2CA
St Thomas, VI
Latitude: 18.3324693 Longitude: -64.9602165

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From: Margaret Chong, OSC

Date: 3/15/2018

Reporting Period: 3/15/2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Z2CA	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:	75	Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	OPA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	STATE	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	3/12/2018	Start Date:	3/12/2018
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:	E18204	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

1.1.2 Site Description

On Saturday, March 3, 2018 at approximately 4 pm, vapors within a concrete vault located near the Puma facility in the Sub base area of St. Thomas ignited resulting in a flashover. VIPD responded and found three concrete vaults containing petroleum product and water. Two vaults house electrical transmission lines owned by WAPA and an abandoned vault owned by VIYA. The vault that ignited was filled with what appeared to be petroleum product. Approximately 6,000 gallons of fuel and water mixture has been pumped from the vaults. The vaults continue to fill with a petroleum/water mix. The source of the discharge is unknown and there are several facilities located in the area that could be the source of the material

In addition, there is an active discharge of an unknown petroleum into Krum Bay from a 12" storm drain

pipe. It is not clear at this time if this is related to the discharge into the three vaults noted above however, the location of the storm drain is in close proximity.. EPA responded to provide technical assistance to DPNR.

1.1.2.1 Location

Sub Base Road, near PUMA, DPW, Patrick Charles Trucking and WAPA.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Vapors from unknown petroleum spill, built up in a manhole. When the manhole cover was removed, a spark caused an explosion. Oil is also being discharged from a storm drain into Krum Bay.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 4pm vapors within a concrete vault ignited resulting in a flashover, which resulted in a power failure to St. Thomas and St. John. The vault sits adjacent to the Puma facility fenceline in the Subbase area of St Thomas. VITEMA, WAPA, DPNR, VIFD and VIPD responded to investigate the cause of the explosion and found three concrete vaults containing petroleum product and water. Two vaults house electrical transmission lines owned by WAPA and one is an abandoned vault owned by Viya (phone/cable). The two WAPA vaults and Viya vault were completely filled with a petroleum/water mix. DPNR contacted a local contractor to vac out the vaults. Approximately 3,900 gallons of fuel and water mixture was pumped from the vaults on Saturday. After pumping, approximately 10" of product/water remained in the Viya vault. DPNR gave a verbal order to the Puma facility to close all valves and cease operations until further notice.

Two concrete vaults are located below the public roadway near the WAPA Randolph Harley plant. The remaining vault is located off the roadway immediately adjacent the Puma facility. The vault adjacent to the Puma facility is where the flashover occurred.

On Monday, March 5, 2018, EPA, DPNR, VITEMA, WAPA, VIPD, USCG and Puma were all on site investigating the source of the leak. DPNR and the USCG collected samples from all the tanks on the Puma facility, from all three concrete vaults, from WAPA's fuel tank, from the Patrick Charles trucking facility (waste oil tank and stained soil) and the outfall in Krum Bay for fingerprint analysis. The fingerprint analysis will also help determine the source of the spill into the concrete vaults.

DPNR requested EPA support for air monitoring. EPA arranged to have air monitoring equipment from St. Croix brought over to St. Thomas, and setup the equipment on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

Puma contracted with a local company to remove product from the Viya vault on Tuesday, March 6th to prevent a future flashover. Approximately 2,600 gallons of petroleum/water mixture was removed from the vault and is currently being stored in an iso tank on Puma property. The WAPA vault closest to the Puma property was mostly dry; however, the downgradient vault had oil/water mixture present. Before the Viya vault was pumped, you could see and hear liquid trickling into the WAPA vault. According to WAPA, all three concrete vaults are sealed and are not interconnected; however, the integrity of the concrete vaults has not been evaluated and the source of the product is currently unknown. DPNR conducted an inspection of the Puma facility on Monday, March 5th focusing on any spills or incidents that have occurred at the facility that could potentially be contributing to the petroleum within the vaults.

The USCG was investigating an active discharge of oil into Krum Bay from a 12" storm drain pipe located approximately 12" beneath the surface of the water. In the interest of being a good corporate neighbor, PUMA has placed hard curtain boom near outfall. It is unclear at this time if the spill into Krum Bay is related to the ongoing incident within the concrete vaults.

The Patrick Charles trucking facility is currently staging trucks alongside the roadway on an unpaved area. There is significant oil staining beneath the trucks leading to a nearby storm drain. A walk through of the Patrick Charles facility conducted on Monday, March 5th revealed sloppy housekeeping at the facility and oil soaked soils throughout the facility that could potentially be a source to either the Krum Bay discharge and/or the concrete vaults. In addition, the adjacent WAPA facility maintains a diesel tank and is located within close proximity to Krum Bay.

DPNR requested EPA support to review Puma's SPCC plan and to conduct air monitoring. On Tuesday, March 6th, EPA returned to the site to provide air monitoring support. Air monitors were staged in front of the Department of Public Works yard, at the intersection closest to the two vaults beneath the public roadway, and one at the barricades set up to block traffic from entering the area. LEL readings were at 0% on all monitors, and occasional spikes of VOCs up to 560 ppb were observed on the monitor closest to the manholes. Average VOC readings on the monitor closest to the Puma facility and DPW was 340 ppb, and the remaining two monitors averaged 40 ppb and 0 ppb.

Puma continues to conduct air monitoring in the area of the three concrete vaults located near the Puma facility in Subbase as per their air monitoring plan which was submitted to DPNR. LEL readings have consistently been 0% on all monitors, and occasional spikes of VOCs at the manholes have been observed.

According to the Fire Chief, the local contractor hired by DPNR on March 8th pumped both the WAPA and Viya vaults to the bottom. Approximately 6,000 gallons of oily water was removed from the two vaults and is currently being staged on Subbase Road near the Puma facility. At 0900 hours on March 9th, the Viya vault was almost full with only approximately 2' capacity remaining until the oily water reached the neck of the manhole. Oily liquid was present in the WAPA vault up to the transmission lines and could be seen entering the vault.

An oily liquid was observed leaking from the sanitary sewer manhole near the WAPA vault. According to an employee in the DPW yard, the pump house for the sanitary sewer was shut down on Saturday for precautionary reasons which is now causing the sanitary to overflow. Sorbent pads were placed over the oily discharge to prevent it from entering the nearby storm drain.

DPNR placed dye into a storm drain located on the Puma facility to determine where their storm water

discharges. Dye testing confirmed that the storm drain on the property discharges to Krum Bay. The outfall is the same pipe where an active oil discharge has been occurring. Currently there is boom placed by Puma around the outfall pipe to contain the discharge.

On March 9, 2018, EPA opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) due to concerns that the source of the oil is potentially the Puma facility, which is in EPA's response jurisdiction.

DPW continues working with DPNR to provide schematics of the storm sewer system and any maps of the old fuel depot that historically may have been on the DPW yard. DPNR is working with WAPA and Viya to get information on the closure procedures followed for the abandoned Viya vault.

EPA is the lead FOSC for the response. EPA will continue to coordinate activities with DPNR.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

Actions to Date:

On March 15, 2018, EPA and ERRS arrived on site and inspected the 3 manholes. The water level at the Viya manhole dropped one ft, to a depth of 2 feet. The other two manholes appear to be at the same levels.

Puma truck traffic resumed as per the schedule provided by Puma the previous night.

At approximately 1100 hours, DPNR observed Puma's contractor attempting to sample the Ground Zero manhole with a long wire and bucket. The contractor was informed that there were live wires inside the manhole and he should not be sampling the manhole. The contractor ceased all operations at the manhole.

At approximately 1110 hours EPA and DPNR met at the WAPA trailer. WAPA and VIFD did not attend the meeting. DPNR contacted WAPA to provide safety barriers for all three manholes, this day. WAPA agreed, however none were provided at the end of the day. WAPA has not yet given final approval on the solidifier

At approximately 1240 hours, Puma observed a discharge of waste oil in Krum Bay. EPA and DPNR were notified. Puma, DPNR and USCG took samples for analysis. USCG added the sample to the rest of the shipment to be re-shipped to the COIL Laboratory in New London, Connecticut

EPA, ERRS and DPNR inspected Charlie's Trucking, DPW and the woodworking business in the area. There did not appear to be any ongoing work pertaining to waste oil.

At approximately 1230 hours, VI Regulated arrived on site to vacuum the two manholes. Pumping of the WAPA and Viya manholes was completed at approximately 1500 hours. A total of 1600 gallons was transferred to the tank truck on site.

Puma continues to monitor the manholes. A high of 4 % LEL and as much as 95 ppm for VOCs throughout the day inside the manholes.

At approximately 1600 hours, all truck traffic to Puma had ceased and DPW closed the barriers for the day.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA expects to receive the fingerprint analytical results from the USCG by next week.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

Not applicable

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Initial \$50,000 was received from NPFC on Friday, March 9, 2018.

Estimated Costs *

		Total To		%
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	Budgeted	Date	Remaining	Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$25,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$17,000.00	68.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$18,163.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,163.00	66.97%
USEPA - InDirect	\$6,837.00	\$0.00	\$6,837.00	100.00%
Total Site Costs	\$50,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$36,000.00	72.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

USEPA, Region 2
 DPNR
 USCG
 VIPD
 VIFD
 VITEMA

4. Personnel On Site

ERRS -1
 EPA - 1

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.